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26 FEB 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT: Establishment of a Satellite Office
Within the Science and Technology
Directorate**

1. This memorandum is for your information. It is responsive to our conversation on 12 February relative to creating a specific office within the DD/S&T responsible for all our satellite efforts. The memorandum is designed to be helpful in your conversations with the DCI on this matter.

2. For the past 6 or 7 months the Agency's effort in the satellite programs has been carried by a small group of Agency employees who operated under the euphemistic title of the Special Projects Staff, DD/S&T. Necessary personnel ceiling has not been available for this Staff, and its membership has been drawn on a detail basis from various places throughout the Directorate. Additionally, a few new and highly specialized employees have been hired to augment the effort. You will recall that earlier we had been reluctant to formalize a satellite office until such time as the Agency's charter in the satellite field could be clarified.

3. The tempo of our satellite activities has set a lively pace for our relatively small group and we now submit that the Agency, if it is at all to fulfill its responsibilities, must officially establish an organization to carry them out. You are well familiar with the growth of [REDACTED] and the potential mass of effort awaiting a developmental go-ahead. CORONA, itself, is still very much alive in technical demands and the Agency has a very real task in handling the payload responsibilities of that program. The [REDACTED] studies to date are most encouraging and justifiably merit additional development. [REDACTED] has been redefined and promises the capability of a [REDACTED] system, be it considerably downstream from the present state-of-the-art. All in all, we have demonstrated the capability to move back into the satellite field and are confident that we possess the wherewithal for contributing significantly to the satellite mission.

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4. There are several reasons which prompt us now to officially recognize and legitimize our satellite office. We are desirous particularly in tidying up a rather cumbersome network of satellite-oriented activities which are spread throughout the Directorate. I speak of the many functions for which Colonel Jack Ledford is held technically responsible to the NRO, yet internally, and in practice, the actual execution is carried out by [REDACTED] Special Projects Staff, which again, in turn, relies upon OSA for various supporting roles. To this currently non-chartered Headquarters element we have appendaged those CIA members of the Satellite Operations Center in the [REDACTED] and the various security officers in the field.

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5. You may recall that last summer in discussing with the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board the role which the Agency could play in the satellite field, the Director stated that he was creating a group of people within the Agency to handle our satellite programs and the then small in-house group would grow eventually to [REDACTED] technical people depending on the impact of other programs. We now propose that we organizationally collect ourselves and staff to meet the demand of our satellite efforts.

6. The proposed satellite office will be responsible for all development, operation, and management of the Agency's satellite efforts. In addition to being the Agency's focal point for satellite activities, it will also provide day-to-day technical direction required for our specific areas of interest in each program, as well as manage the on-orbit operations which are performed under the [REDACTED] relationship.

7. Accepting the postulates which we have set forth above, we are preparing a plan of implementation which will spell out in detail the slotting requirements, funding, and the over-all composition of the proposed office. We now anticipate the need for approximately [REDACTED] above those we have already committed from our current Directorate ceiling. Total unit size will approximate [REDACTED] including Headquarters and field units.

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9. Before proceeding with the development and presentation of all the necessary personnel, funding, and organizational action papers, we would appreciate receiving approval in principle for proceeding with the matters discussed.

[REDACTED]

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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